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P 030833Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO IRAQ COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 000622

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STATE FOR NEA/I - JDAVIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/02/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [JA](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MAY VISIT IRAQ IN APRIL;
COALITION SUPPORT ACTIVITIES UNCERTAIN

CLASSIFIED BY: AMBASSADOR RYAN C. CROCKER FOR REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D).

11. (C/NF) SUMMARY. IN A SHORT MARCH 1 MEETING, JAPANESE

PAGE 02 RUEHGBA0622 C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 000622
AMBASSADOR KENJIRO MONJI TOLD AMBASSADOR CROCKER THAT IF
JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER KOMURA ATTENDS THE APRIL 22 KUWAIT
NEIGHBORS MINISTERIAL, MONJI WOULD ALSO ENCOURAGE HIM TO
VISIT BAGHDAD. SPEAKING IN AN UNOFFICIAL CAPACITY, MONJI WAS
DOWNBEAT ABOUT THE FUTURE OF JAPANS KUWAIT-BASED COALITION
SUPPORT ACTIVITIES. MONJI ALSO DETAILED GOJ PLANS TO PROVIDE
TECHNICAL SUPPORQO IRAQ'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
AGREEMENT/STATUS OF FORCES (SFA/SOFA) TEAM. END SUMMARY.

12. (C/NF) IN A MARCH 1 MEETING, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR KENJIRO
MONJI TOLD AMBASSADOR CROCKER THAT THE IRAQI EMBASSY IN JAPAN
HAS INVITED JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER MASAHICO KOMURA TO
VISIT BAGHDAD WHILE HE IS IN THE REGION FOR THE APRIL 22
KUWAIT EXPANDED NEIGHBORS MINISTERIAL. AMBASSADOR MONJI
CAUTIONED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER KOMURA MAY NOT BE ABLE TO
ATTEND THE MINISTERIAL BECAUSE OF JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY
IMPERATIVES, BUT THAT IF HE DOES, MONJI WILL ENCOURAGE HIM TO
ADD AN IRAQ LEG TO HIS TRIP. AMBASSADOR CROCKER WELCOMED THE
NEWS AND ADDED EMBASSY BAGHDAD STOOD READY TO PROVIDE SUPPORT
AS REQUIRED. MONJI ASKED THAT WE KEEP THIS INFORMATION CLOSE

PAGE 03 RUEHGBA0622 C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 000622
HOLD.

13. (C/NF) AMBASSADOR MONJI MENTIONED THAT JAPANS
KUWAIT-BASED COALITION LOGISTICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES
SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED A UNITED NATIONS SECURITY RESOLUTION TO
CONTINUE, WHICH MADE THEIR POST-2008 FATE UNCERTAIN. HE
ADDED THAT DOMESTIC ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR JAPAN'S
COALITION SUPPORT MISSION LIKELY WOULD NOT BE RENEWED BY THE
JAPANESE DIET, BUT EMPHASIZED THAT HE WAS PROVIDING THIS
INFORMATION IN A PRIVATE CAPACITY BECAUSE THAT THE JAPANESE
GOVERNMENT HAS NOT YET OFFICIALLY SETTLED ON ITS POST-UNSCR
POSTURE.

14. (C/NF) AMBASSADOR MONJI SAID THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS
WORKING WITH UNAMI, PRIME MINISTER MALIKI'S OFFICE AND THE
IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTRY TO PROVIDE CAPACITY SUPPORT TO IRAQ'S
STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT/STATUS OF FORCES AGREEMENT
(SFA/SOFA) TEAM AND IS CONSIDERING FLYING A FOUR-MEMBER IRAQI
TEAM TO JAPAN MARCH 17-31 FOR TRAINING. AMBASSADOR CROCKER
PUSHED BACK, NOTING THAT THE TIMING WOULD DISRUPT SFA/SOFA

PAGE 04 RUEHGBA0622 C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 000622
NEGOTIATION MOMENTUM. AMBASSADOR MONJI ALSO SUGGESTED (AND
STRESSED HE WOULD STRICTLY OBSERVE CONFIDENTIALITY NORMS)
THAT BECAUSE OF HIS BACKGROUND (HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE
JAPANESE SOFA INTERAGENCY) HE MIGHT PERSONALLY BE ABLE TO
PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE IRAQI TEAM. THE GOJ ALSO
PLANS TO HOST 15 KEY GOI AND COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVE
MEMBERS FOR A MARCH 20-26 RECONCILIATION SEMINAR IN TOKYO.
(NOTE: POST PROVIDED LIST TO NEA/I VIA E-MAIL. END NOTE.)
CROCKER